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June 22, 2006

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Jobs for Montana's Graduates Makes the Grade

Helena, Mont. --- Jobs for America's Graduates today announced Job's for Montana Graduates achieves "5 for 5" status in performance outcomes.

Jobs for Montana Graduates (JMG) began in 1990 as a solution to the dropout rates experienced in Montana's high schools. Today, JMG supports a network of 41 programs offering 794 students the potential for future career development by focusing on staying in school and finding a career path suited to their interests and abilities.

Jobs for America's Graduates (JAG), serving 28 states, established five performance outcomes for students enrolled in the program. Some of the standards include graduation rate, positive outcomes of transitioning to work, post secondary, or military, and full time job placements.

"Students are selected for the program because they have barriers to successful completion of high school and job entry," said State Coordinator Drea Brown. "The program is aimed at meeting their academic, social and cultural needs."

In school year 2004-2005, JMG hosted 579 students in 39 schools and had an overall graduation success rate of 96.14 percent. The remaining balance- 215 students - were enrolled in the Yellowstone Youth Academy and the Montana Youth Challenge.

Native Americans enter the program with more than five barriers to success including: excessive absences, inadequate or no work experience, residing in economically disadvantaged conditions, low academic performance, and lacking marketable occupational skills.

Twelve of the 41 programs offered are located on or border six of Montana's Indian reservations and serve 133 Native youth. The graduation rate for Indian students surpassed the overall state, by bringing in a perfect score of 100 percent.

To learn more about the Jobs for Montana Graduates program contact Drea Brown (406)444-0978.

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